with the given program listing is to be recorded at its air time. The video record mark is synchronized in the local program guide with the remote electronic program guide running on a remote device.

[0015] Another aspect of the present method comprises marking the given program listing in the local electronic program guide with a video record mark, the mark indicating that the program associated with the given program listing is to be recorded at its air time. One or more parameters associated with the given program listing are copied to a recording device to instruct the recording device to record the program associated with the given program listing. The step of copying one or more parameters may comprise copying a channel the program is airing on, a title of the program, a start time of the program, an end time of the program, and a description of the program.

[0016] The personal digital assistant may also be supplied with personal information management software, including calendar software. The given program selected by the user may be marked for a reminder in a calendar application on the personal digital assistant. An alert may also be issued when the given program is scheduled to air.

[0017] The present invention also comprises a system for using a personal digital assistant to browse and select program listings. The system comprises a program listing server to distribute program guide data over a distribution network and a mobile computing device. The mobile computing device stores a local electronic program guide and is operative to receive the program guide data, which is presented by the local electronic program guide, the local program guide further operative to receive input to set a recording mark or a future program reminder. A remote electronic program guide is also provided, the remote electronic program guide operative to synchronize the recording mark or future program reminder with the local program guide.

[0018] According to one embodiment of the invention, the mobile computing device comprises a personal digital assistant, which may comprise calendar software. The future program reminder, which may comprise a broadcast channel, a program title, a start time and an end time, is recorded in the calendar software. The calendar software may also issue an alert when the start time is arrived at. Furthermore, the personal digital assistant is operative to synchronize the recording mark with a recording device or the remote electronic program guide, which may be resident on a set top terminal.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0019] The invention is illustrated in the figures of the accompanying drawings which are meant to be exemplary and not limiting, in which like references are intended to refer to like or corresponding parts, and in which:

[0020] **FIG. 1** is a block diagram presenting a configuration of hardware and software components for using a personal digital assistant as an electronic program guide according to one embodiment of the present invention;

[0021] **FIG. 2** is a flow diagram presenting a method for using a personal digital assistant as an electronic program guide according to one embodiment of the present invention; and

[0022] **FIG. 3** is a flow diagram presenting another method for using a personal digital assistant as an electronic program guide according to one embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0023] With reference to **FIGS. 1 through 3**, embodiments of the instant invention are presented. Turning to **FIG. 1, a** system for presenting, distributing and navigating programming content is presented. A distribution network **108** is used to distribute digital and/or analog audio and video data to a subscribing customers' set top terminal **114** for presentation on a television **120** or other display device. According to some embodiments, the distribution network **108** comprises a coaxial infrastructure, a fiber infrastructure, a hybrid fiber-coax infrastructure, a wireless infrastructure, or a combination of these and other delivery technologies well known to those skilled in the art.

[0024] Programming and guide data is transported across the distribution network **108** to a subscriber's set top terminal **114**. Exemplary set top terminals include the DCT1000 and DCT2000 manufactured by Motorola, and the Explorer 2000, 3100, 6000 and 8000 manufactured by Scientific Atlanta, or any other set top terminal or receiver as are well known to those skilled in the art. According to an alternative embodiment of the invention, a programming distribution network is used to distribute programming content to subscriber households and another network is used to distribute associated programming guide data.

[0025] A television program listing database **112** maintains television program listing data for retrieval and distribution by a program listing server **110**. The television program listing database may comprise any type of data store including, but not limited to, a relational database, an object-oriented database, or a hybrid relational-object database. Alternatively, the database **112** may comprise a file-system structure organized so as to facilitate simplified retrieval of desired television program listing data, e.g., organizing program listings by date, which a separate directory on the filesystem for each date. The database **112** may even comprise a flat-file, tab-delimited, or similar flat data structure. Furthermore, the television program listing database may only act as a mechanism for organizing the television program listing content, which may reside on a the same or another local or remote storage device. Preferably, the television program listing content comprises pages of HTML or XML program data that is capable of being rendered using web browser software and other applications well know to those skilled in the art.

[0026] A network connection is provided between the television program listing database **112** and the program listing server **100**. The network connection between the two may be a local or wide area connection distinct from the distribution network **108** or may be the same network **108**. The program listing server **110** is operative to receive requests for television program listings from electronic program guides **106** and **116** and return program listing data responsive to the request. According to one embodiment of the invention, the program listing server **110** queries the television program listing database **112** to retrieve raw program listing content, which is formatted at the program